



**FY** *Annual Report*  
**24** **Army National Guard**  
*Child & Youth Program*

# CELEBRATING *20 years* OF THE CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM

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This year marks a significant milestone for the Army National Guard Child and Youth Program as we celebrate 20 years of service to military-connected youth and their families. Since its inception, the program has been a cornerstone of support, offering resources, mentorship, and opportunities for growth to thousands of young people across the country.

Over the past two decades, the Child and Youth Program has expanded its reach, adapting to the evolving needs of military families while staying true to its mission of fostering resilience, leadership, and community. Through countless workshops, camps, and educational programs, we've empowered youth to overcome the unique challenges of military life, helping them build strong connections and develop critical life skills.

As we look ahead to the next 20 years, we remain committed to building on this legacy of support, ensuring that every military child has the tools and resources they need to thrive. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of the Child and Youth Program—we look forward to continuing this journey together!

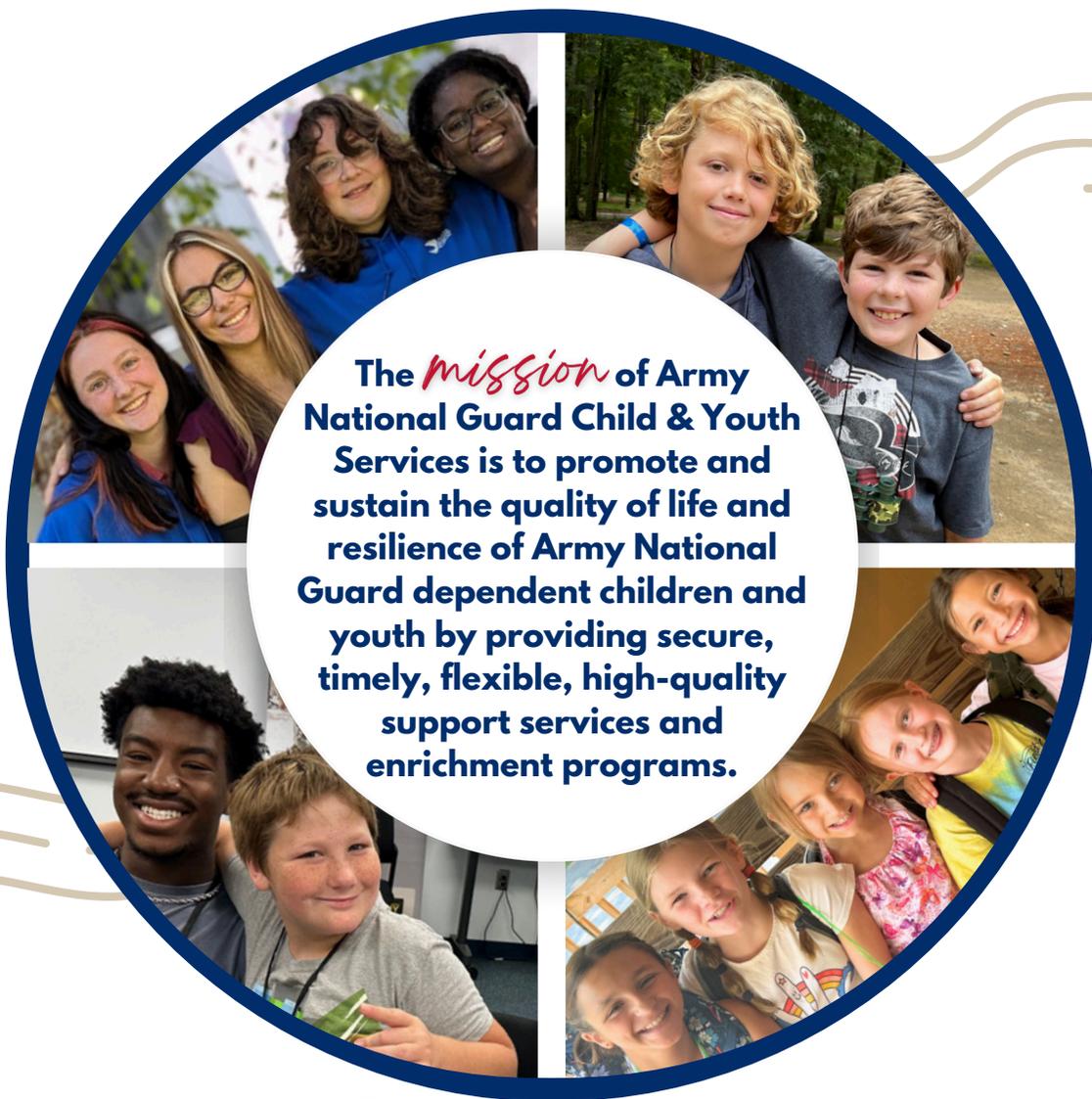
**20**  
2004  
2024  
**YEARS**  
OF DEDICATION TO  
POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



“ Thank you for your commitment to our youth. Despite deployments, **my children have flourished** benefiting from the supportive community and connections formed with other military kids.

- IARNC, Parent Response - Post Event Survey





The *mission* of Army National Guard Child & Youth Services is to promote and sustain the quality of life and resilience of Army National Guard dependent children and youth by providing secure, timely, flexible, high-quality support services and enrichment programs.

## Program *Goals*

**Education:** Provide developmentally-appropriate life skills education to National Guard youth

**Access:** Provide information on access to Federal and State/Territory benefits that support National Guard children and Families, including: counseling, education, child care, and other resources needed to foster a healthy, stable and secure family environment

**Opportunity:** Create partnerships for opportunities to participate in programs, events, and activities geared toward the behavioral and physical health and welfare of children and youth that are available across the spectrum of Government, community, and private sector

**Communication:** Build a sense of belonging to the Army National Guard Community by creating secure opportunities to network with other youth, parents/legal guardians, and youth program coordinators in one's community, state/territory, and across the nation

**Resilience:** Infuse resiliency and leadership skills and techniques into all Army National Guard child and youth programming

**Outreach:** Build and sustain contact with parents/legal guardians, and children of the National Guard in order to create awareness of available support services and program

# MEASURING

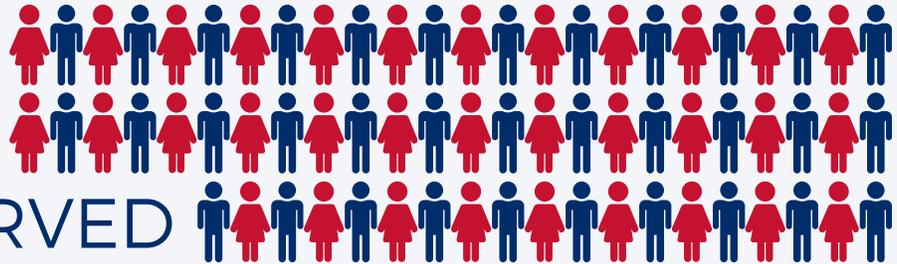
## *Our Impact*



**63,411**

**MILITARY**

**YOUTH SERVED**



**32,084**

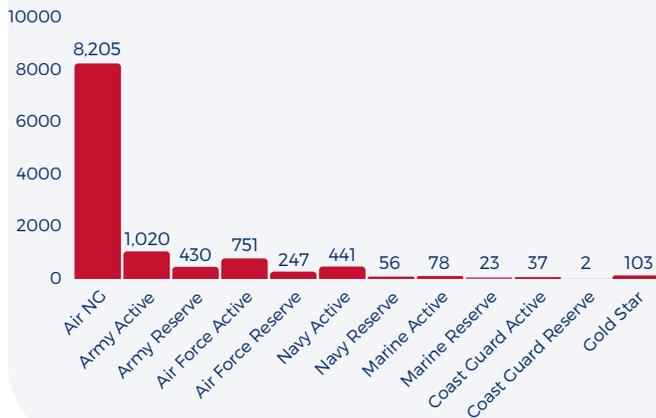
**ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
6-12 YEAR OLDS**



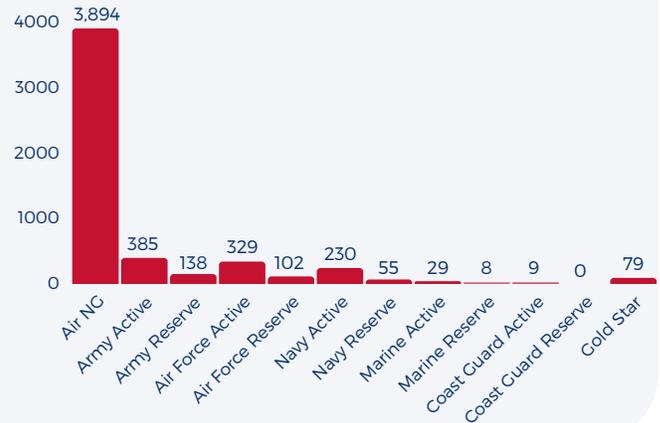
**14,676**

**ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
13-18 YEAR OLDS**

**OTHER MILITARY CHILDREN:  
6-12 YEARS OLD**



**OTHER MILITARY CHILDREN:  
13-17 YEARS OLD**



**10.13% INCREASE**  
13-18 YEAR OLDS AT  
OVERNIGHT CAMP



**10.32% INCREASE**  
ARNG 6-18 YEAR OLDS  
AT YRRP EVENTS



**8% INCREASE**  
6-12 YEAR OLDS AT  
YOUTH SYMPOSIUMS



Awareness of the Child and Youth Program's resources and programs helps increase Soldiers' mission readiness



The Child and Youth Program plays an important role in helping families become more resilient and positively cope with the demands of a military-connected life



Resources and services provided by the Child and Youth Program positively impacts Soldier retention

\*Results from FY24 Chain of Command Survey



Through participation in CYS, my youth has developed the skills necessary to cope when facing difficulties



The Child and Youth Program has contributed to my family's increased understanding of the military, and my role within it



Through participation in CYS, my youth has learned to try and see the good things in a bad situation

\*Results from FY24 Soldier Parent Survey

## Volunteers: Empowering our Mission

In FY24, 5,710 dedicated adults and teens volunteered their time to make our 2,655 ARNG CYS programs possible. Contributing a total of 143,427 volunteer hours—equivalent to \$4,803,370 based on Independent Sector's rate of \$33.49 per hour—their efforts significantly extended our program's impact, allowing us to reach more youth and communities across the nation.

Volunteers are essential to our mission, bringing the passion, dedication, and hands-on support needed to keep our programs thriving. From mentorship and activities to vital behind-the-scenes support, they help create enriching experiences that would not be possible without their generous contributions. Recognizing the critical role of volunteers, our ARNG CYS staff provided 81 specialized training sessions, equipping them with knowledge in risk management, program planning, behavior management, confidentiality protocols, and procedures for recognizing and reporting suspected abuse and neglect. These training sessions ensure volunteers are well-prepared to foster safe, positive environments for military youth.



**10.96% INCREASE**  
VOLUNTEERS  
SUPPORTING EVENTS



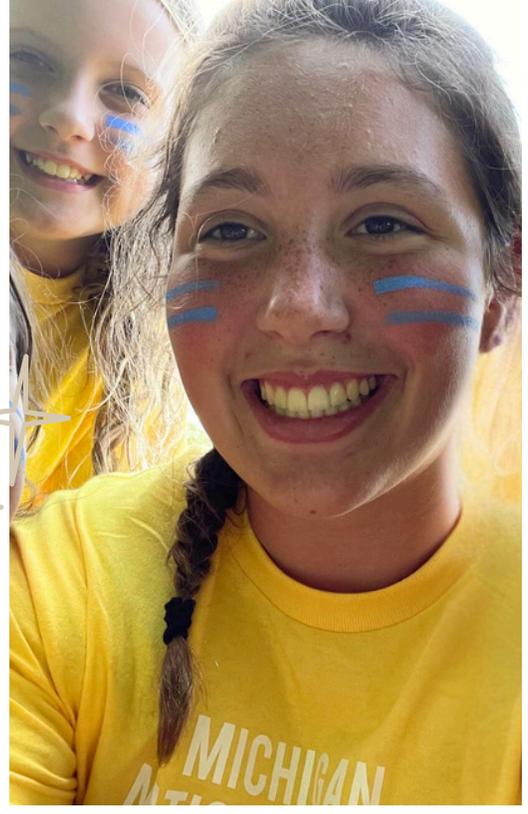
# TEENS

## Leading the Way

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### STATE/TERRITORY TEEN PANEL

At the local level, states and territories operate State Teen Panels (STP) to promote youth involvement. In FY24, 485 STP members helped organizers plan events, engaged in service-learning opportunities, and represented the needs and concerns of military-connected young people. STPs held 335 training sessions and meetings, which included skill-building activities and programs.



### RESILIENCE TRAINING

The resilience program taught to ARNG Soldiers and spouses has been translated into a strengths-based curriculum that promotes a shared language for families when discussing resilience and overcoming challenges. This MRT training equips young people with the essential skills needed to confront challenges associated with both military and non-military settings.

The Teen Curriculum comes in two versions: an introductory 2-hour workshop, and a complete curriculum that spans 14 skills, including critical thinking, self-awareness, problem-solving, and communication. Furthermore, the program teaches youth how to identify their own character strengths, as well as those of others, which has been shown to foster meaningful and long-lasting connections among young people from various backgrounds.



” Teen Panel has given me **opportunities to serve** and helped get me out of my shell. I am more outgoing, willing to try new things and I've also made some really great friends who are **military kids just like me!**

- IDARNG, Teen Panel Member



Abigail Cadman  
Region 1



Carlos Juan Franco  
Region 2



Malaika Wande  
Region 3



Samuel Spangler  
Region 4



Lily Johnson  
Region 5



Kamryn Stauffacher  
Region 8



Claudia Shin  
Region 9



Justus Spaulding  
Region 10



Jordan Henebry  
Army's Director's  
Teen Panel



Camille Welch  
Army's Director's  
Teen Panel

## GUARD TEEN PANEL

The National Guard Teen Panel (GTP) is a youth-led initiative guided by adult leaders from both the Army and Air National Guard. The panel includes ten regional delegates, each representing a specific region, as well as two at-large delegates who serve as liaisons to the Army Teen Panel. The mission of the GTP is to amplify the voices of National Guard youth across the country and provide insights and recommendations to National Guard leadership from a youth perspective.

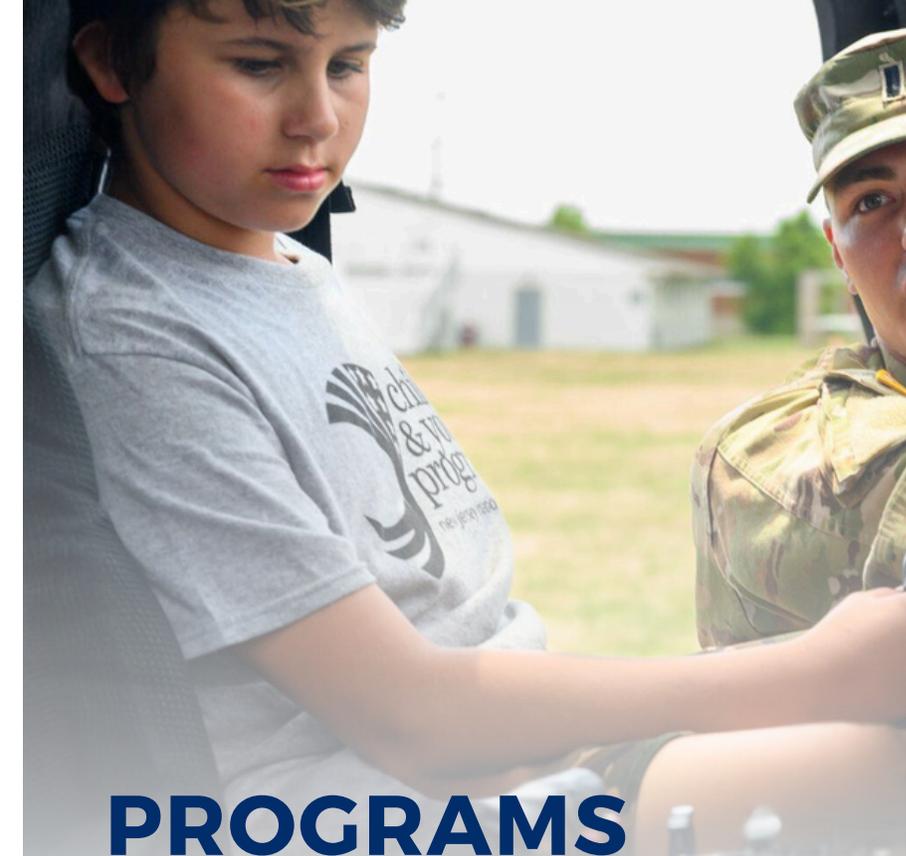
In FY24, the panel actively participated in conferences and training sessions organized by national partner programs. Notably, they attended the Boys and Girls Clubs of America's (BGCA) Keystone and the Military Teen Ambassador Conference in July. This event allowed the delegates to collaborate with peers from all branches of the armed forces, fostering a greater sense of community and shared purpose. The sessions focused on mental health, college readiness, and enhancing the positive impact of the BGCA and National Guard partnership through the Keystone Club initiative. They also attended the BGCA Military Youth of the Year gala, where they connected and shared experiences with other military youth from around the world.

Additionally, the delegates participated in regional symposiums, where they discussed issues present in their states and explored possible solutions that they hope to present to National Guard leadership in the near future. The teens have played a crucial role in reaching out to more youth in their communities by creating impactful content for newsletters and advocating for the positive effects of their program. Their efforts have significantly contributed to their personal development and inspired hope for future Guard youth dependents.

”The Youth Panel has taught me how to **be resilient** in such a fun way by making intriguing and real-world scenarios enjoyable. I’ve also learned how to **be a leader** in my own community by volunteering and helping people in need.

- Justus Spaulding, AKARNG Teen Panel and Region 10 GTP Representative





## PROGRAMS

### *In Action*



The Army National Guard is unique in that Soldiers and families do not often reside on, or close to, military facilities. Therefore, it is important to work with community leaders, educators and administrators to create networks of support for those geo-dispersed members of the ARNG Community. As a result of these efforts, more families have access to various resources and services - whether they are provided by the military or on the civilian side. These 'networks of support' serve as force multipliers, better ensuring families feel safe and connected at all times.



## 180 - EDUCATION OUTREACH

The ARNG CYS staff made a significant impact by providing outreach trainings, meetings, briefings, and school support groups to 3,875 school administrators, educators, support staff, and students. Additionally, many states and territories have joined forces with local colleges and universities to offer college and career planning courses for teens and parents, as well as ACT/SAT prep courses.



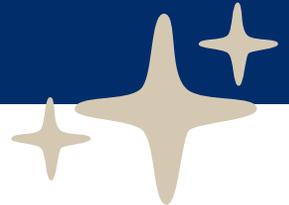
## 580 - COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Throughout FY24, CYS staff worked with more than 31,000 military and civilian organizations and individuals to maximize the impact of community resources on our service members and their families. These networks of support are crucial in providing military youth with opportunities and educating our communities about the unique challenges military families face.

## 176 - COMMANDER, UNIT, OR FRG BRIEFINGS

Coordinators are routinely requested to brief services provided, outreach efforts and outcomes of Child and Youth Services to Family Readiness Groups, Soldiers at the Unit level and Senior Military Personnel. In FY24, CYS staff briefed to 11,471 military-connected individuals to ensure all levels of Command, and associated support groups, are equipped with youth-related information as a means of supporting Soldier and Family military readiness and resilience.

## 152 - MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD (MOMC)



Month of the Military Child (MOMC), observed every April, celebrates the unique challenges and strengths of military and military-connected children, highlighting their pride and resilience in the face of prolonged family separations. This observance fosters a sense of community among military families and honors the sacrifices made by these children, encouraging support networks which foster their emotional well-being and development. Through various events and activities, the month aims to raise awareness about the contributions of military kids, emphasizing their adaptability and the vital role they play in the military community.

The FY24 MOMC theme was National Guard Kids Are Out of This World! Throughout the month of April, ARNG CYS Teams across the country hosted numerous MOMC programs, serving more than 8,000 military youth and encompassing a total of more than 605 hours of direct programming. Additionally, the ARNG CYS Program celebrated two spirit weeks in April, one for kids and one for teens, as well as hosting a digital photo contest, where youth were challenged to capture pictures of themselves demonstrating what it means to be Out of This World. Winners of the photo contest were featured in the June ARNG CYS Newsletter.



This program has provided more than just fun activities; it has been an avenue for my children to **build skills**, develop **leadership qualities**, and create lasting connections with other National Guard families. It's truly been a **unique and rewarding experience** for each of them.

- VAARNG, MAJ Mark Ford

## 338 - RESIDENTIAL & DAY CAMPS

Numerous state and territory programs offer experiential education opportunities. In FY24, 92 residential camps, 132 in-person day camps, and 114 virtual day opportunities were provided. These programs are designed to enhance leadership, self-confidence, and teamwork skills in our military youth, while encouraging camaraderie and connections with peers and supportive adults.

## 242 - PARTNERED EVENTS

FY24 brought many opportunities to partner with our community contacts in the development and implementation of a variety of programs to serve military families. Specifically, organizations such as 4-H Extension Services, Boys and Girls Clubs, USO, YMCA, Red Cross, Department of Natural Resources and MANY more helped coordinate and collaborate with Child and Youth Services.



## 41 - REGIONAL & STATE OR TERRITORY YOUTH SYMPOSIUMS

In FY24, the Army National Guard Child and Youth Program supported youth development through State or Territory and Regional Symposiums, creating valuable opportunities for growth and community-building among military youth. State and Territory Symposiums provided locally organized leadership trainings that focused on resilience, leadership, and team-building skills, equipping young leaders to thrive within their communities and support their peers.

Regional Symposiums brought together youth leaders from multiple states within one of the 10 FEMA regions, offering an expanded platform for training and collaboration. In FY24, Regions 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 hosted events. These symposiums provided Teen Panel Leaders with leadership development, resilience training, and opportunities for personal growth. Through these events, youth participants were able to share experiences related to deployment, offer insights on Child and Youth Services programs, and work collaboratively to develop action plans advocating for military youth across diverse platforms.

These symposiums are vital to empowering military youth, fostering a network of support, and amplifying their voices within the Guard community and beyond.

” The environment and programs have created a **positive impact** on the growth of their **physical and mental health**, as well as a sense of connection with other military kids. This program creates opportunities for mental growth for children dealing with military stresses such as deployments, military schools, drill weekends, and trainings.

- SDARNG, Parent Response - Teen Panel Survey



## 235 - YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAMS

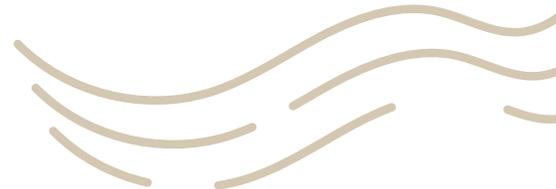
The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program collaborates with Child and Youth Coordinators to equip soldiers and their loved ones with the tools necessary to maintain resilience throughout deployments. Each state or territory provides various research and evidence-based curriculum's during trainings and briefings, promoting overall positive youth and family well-being.

## 210 - FAMILY DAYS & MILITARY APPRECIATION EVENTS

There are a variety of Military Appreciation events held at various venues, including sports games, zoos, state parks, and children's museums. CYS staff often participate in annual Unit Family Day programs, offering educational activities for attendees. These events provide opportunities for military families to connect with one another and build relationships.

## 15 - SURVIVOR SUPPORT EVENTS

Support provided to other military programs by Child and Youth Coordinators serves to further strengthen the overall ARNG force. These collaborative efforts result in opportunities for families to engage with each other and develop greater awareness of resources and services available, all while being in a safe and supportive environment with other military families.





# INVESTING IN OUR *Community*

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## MARKETING

Marketing plays a vital role in the success of our program, and in FY24, the Program Management Team took significant steps to enhance the reach, impact, and resources available to Child and Youth Coordinators. This past year, we focused on developing a wide range of materials, including flyers, brochures, and social media content, specifically for the Army Fee Assistance (AFA) Program and the Weekend Drill Child Care (WDCC) Pilot Program.

Building on the momentum of our FY23 efforts, we ensured the continuation of the successful "ARNG CYS Means" Campaign, expanding its reach and engagement. We also refreshed our program's branding to present a modern, vibrant look across all marketing materials, helping to keep our message impactful and visually engaging.

In collaboration with NGB and through the efforts of a dedicated workgroup, we developed a themed marketing campaign for Month of the Military Child 2024. This year's theme, "Military Kids Are Out of This World!" celebrates the resilience and strength of military children, capturing their unique role within our military community. These targeted efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to supporting Child and Youth Coordinators in delivering meaningful and well-recognized programs for military families.



## PROGRAM NEWSLETTERS

In FY24, the Program Management Team (PMT) enhanced outreach and support for ARNG Families and Child and Youth Coordinators through the development of two dedicated newsletters, reaching a broader audience and providing valuable resources and updates. Each month, the ARNG CYS public newsletter is distributed to over 3,000 individuals, with a 28.86% increase in subscribers from FY23. Linked to the ARNG CYS website, this newsletter shares regional program highlights, family resources, training opportunities, and observance information. Downloads averaged an impressive 1,103 per month, representing an increase of 254 downloads on average each month and highlighting strong engagement with the content.

In addition to the public newsletter, the PMT also produced a monthly staff newsletter tailored for program staff. This resource provided timely program updates, innovative ideas, and resources to enhance engagement with youth and families both in-person and virtually. Together, these newsletters strengthened communication, extended our community reach, and ensured that both families and staff were well-informed and supported.

## TRAINING

Investing in training and professional development opportunities for staff has always been an important component of the ARNG CYS Program. Those within the Program realize continuous learning is essential for fostering a skilled and motivated team. Throughout FY24, ARNG CYS staff participated in a variety of learning opportunities, ranging from monthly virtual conference calls, to online training modules and attendance at in-person professional conferences and events. This attention to continuous skill-development and learning afforded youth and their families access to high-quality, relevant, and impactful programming. By ensuring staff are prepared to support the unique needs of military youth, service members are able to focus on mission readiness and operations.



“The friends and program connections that my children have been able to develop has been invaluable. **Knowing my children look at my military service in a more positive light**, and know who to contact if they need help with resources **helps me to focus** less on if my family is okay while I am gone, and **more on the mission** I am working on.

- MOARNG, SSG Sharon Lau

# FY24

## Annual Report

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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